

An Acorn Woodpecker Specimen From Utah.

Charles T. LaRue, Box 1802 Kayenta, Arizona 86033

The Acorn Woodpecker (Melanerpes formicivora) was recently documented in Utah through observational records reported by Hedges (1988). It had previously been listed under the "unverified species" list of Behle et al. (1985). Hedges (1988) reports that nearly all Acorn Woodpeckers have been seen the Zion National Park area in Washington County and at nearby Coral Pink sand Dunes in Kane County. He further lists Acorn Woodpecker observations from 25 April (1970) to 20 October (1971).

On 12 January 1988, I recovered a fresh road killed female Acorn Woodpecker from Hwy. 163 about 10 miles south of ^{San Juan Co.} Monticello, Utah. The bird was found where Hwy. 163 crosses Devils Canyon in an area of ~~ponderosa~~ Pinus edulis - Utah juniper (Juniperus osteosperma) woodland interspersed with ponderosa pine (P. ponderosa), Gambel oak (Quercus gambelii) and other transition zone vegetation. The specimen weighed 60 grams, ^{had} a wing chord of 111 millimeters, was not molting and a fully ossified skull. This specimen represents the first Acorn Woodpecker specimen for Utah. It is also a new record for southeastern Utah as well as the first winter record for the state. The winter occurrence suggests year-around occupation of southern Utah. The preserved specimen is housed in the vertebrate collection at Brigham Young University as a standard museum skin.

Literature Cited.

Behle, W. H., E. D. Sorensen and C. M. White. 1985. Utah Birds: A Revised Checklist. Utah Department of Natural Resources.